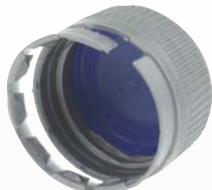


PUT A CAP ON WASTE
AVEDA STORES
ACCEPT PLASTIC
BOTTLE CAPS



PLASTIC BOTTLE caps are made of a different type of plastic than bottles themselves. Leaving the caps on bottles contaminates the load of recyclables at the curb since different types of plastic melt at different temperatures in the recycling process. Don't throw plastic bottle caps in the trash, where they may end up in a landfill. Instead, visit the Aveda store at the Mall of America where they are collecting plastic bottle caps. To put a lid on this devastation, the Aveda store at the Mall of America is collecting all rigid plastic caps. This includes caps that twist on with a threaded neck, such as caps on shampoo, water, soda, milk and other beverage bottles, in addition to flip top caps on food product bottles such as ketchup and mayonnaise, laundry detergents and some jar lids such as peanut butter.

For more information, call Public Works Project Coordinator Jean Buckley at 952-563-8751.



OPTING OUT
SAY 'NO' TO UNSOLICITED
PHONE BOOKS

MORE THAN 500 MILLION phone books are printed every year, which amounts to nearly two books for every person in the country. To avoid receiving telephone books, visit www.yellowpagesGoesGreen.org, click on "Opt Out" at the top of the page or <http://dexknows.whitepages.com>, click on "Directory Options" at the bottom of the page, type in your information and select "o" for number of phone books.

DID YOU KNOW?
RECYCLING FACT



RECYCLING 35 PERCENT of U.S. trash saves enough energy to fuel six million homes annually, generates \$5.2 billion in raw materials each year and reduces vehicle emissions equivalent to taking 36 million cars off the road.

POWER DRAINERS
UNPLUG TO SAVE ENERGY

ENERGY DRAINERS ARE devices that although turned off, still suck power from electrical outlets. Common household items such as computer monitors, cell phone chargers and video game consoles all use power even when they're turned off. In fact, the average American household may have 20 - 40 such devices in their homes. To save energy, unplug these items when you are away from home for an extended period of time. There's no need to unplug power strips; simply turn them off.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES IKEA CO-WORKERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS

BLOOMINGTON IKEA EMPLOYEES are changing the way they impact the environment and how their customers shop. How do they do it? Yes, they have recycling bins around every corner and only offer reusable shopping bags, but IKEA employees are also given a crash course in recycling, waste prevention and energy conservation at the start of their employment. Once new employees have completed the course, they are invited to participate in IKEA's environmental action plan. Employees also receive follow-up classes and are encouraged to pass their knowledge on to co-workers and customers.

IKEA Environmental Coordinator Angie Wolper meets with staff once a month to help them see where they can make a difference.

"It's amazing the ideas that come from just talking to people about their daily routines," Wolper said. "We always discover some way to be more environmentally friendly."



Wolper gives the example of an employee who, after noticing that broken glass was tossed in the garbage, suggested that the glass instead be donated to a local business that creates countertops out of recycled materials. Wolper followed up on the suggestion. Today, broken glass is recycled and eventually makes its way back into the store as a new countertop.

Glass is not the only material recycled by IKEA employees. Cardboard, paper, plastics, wood, organics and ceramics are all reused. Returned items are repaired for resale. Broken ceramic pieces are offered for free to IKEA's crafty mosaic-making customers. Even old uniforms get a new life. Then there's the organics recycling program, which removes more than 100,000 pounds of food from the waste stream per year. IKEA has also started using straws and utensils made from corn, which are biodegradable and can be composted with left over food.

Bloomington resident Dorothy Sheaffer, pictured above, makes sure cardboard is recycled.

"I feel fantastic about the program," Sheaffer said. "I love that I can do my part to help."



Facilities Manager Mark Hedin has been tasked with reducing energy consumption in the Bloomington store 25 percent by 2010. Hedin started by reducing the wattage of fluorescent warehouse lights, which caused no visible reduction, but was a huge energy saver.

"We have an excellent energy management system," Hedin said. "We make sure we don't over-illuminate the building. Lights are on a time-based schedule and computers shut down automatically at night."

Hedin is working on implementing an irrigation system for the grounds that will measure the water content in the soil to prevent over-watering.

Good communication is the key to starting any new program.

"We inform our employees and customers every step of the way," stated Hedin. "That's how we make it work."

TIME TO CLEAN SPRING 2009 CURBSIDE CLEANUP

SPRING CURBSIDE CLEANUP is right around the corner. Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. Remember, trucks go through only once. Please do not set out appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners until the morning of your collection day. When people cut lines in these appliances to steal the copper, Freon or Chlorofluorocarbons are released into the air and accelerate the depletion of ozone.

Seniors or disabled residents should contact their Neighborhood Watch block captains or call Ask the City, 952-563-4957 V/TTY, in advance for assistance. Requests for assistance must be made at least one week in advance.

Think green. Consider donating or selling usable items. Look for Citywide Garage Sale information in the April Briefing.

SCHEDULE, FROM WEST TO EAST

West of Normandale	Saturday, April 18
Normandale to France	Saturday, April 25
France to Penn	Saturday, May 2
Penn to Portland	Saturday, May 9
East of Portland	Saturday, May 16



RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District are hosting two rain garden workshops for Bloomington residents, **Thursdays, May 7 and May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** The workshops, facilitated by Metro Blooms, a nonprofit gardening organization, and local landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt, will take place in the Bloomington



Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street. Hennepin County Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer all your gardening questions.

To register, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.